

DEAR ERIC COLUMN - JULY

WHAT DOES SOUR CREAM AND WATERCOLOR PAINT HAVE IN COMMON?

Dear Eric

My tubes of paint are certainly not the consistency of sour cream so I invested in a few tubes of Graham and one of Danial Smith. None of them are like sour cream either! In fact, the DS tube is mostly binder even after I've squirted out quite a bit. I can't pick up several colors on my brush without mashing in to the color somewhat. What's up with that? Could these be old as well? I'm thinking of taking them back. *Leslie from Portland*

Leslie,

There is some variation between manufacturers and the tube colors themselves as to moistness. Some colors, such as cobalt violet, can have more glycerin run out of the tube before the pigment finally comes out.

However, if you can't "stack" multiple layers of color upon the tip of your brush without grinding your brush into the paint wells, I would suggest either trying a different brand of paint, or a newer tube as your paints may be getting old, especially if the tube was opened some time ago. If you are using a new tube, as it seems you are implying, it maybe you have received a poor batch of paint. I think the problem may be with the latter as I have enjoyed using both Daniel Smith and Graham paints.

The "sour cream" consistency is the best analogy I can come up with. The most important thing is that you can load several layers of paint upon the brush by easily dipping into the paint, in order to eliminate the extra mixing - both in the paint wells and on the palette- that leads to muddiness.

I have been happy with the Sennelier watercolors that we carry on line - they keep moist for a long time.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



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